The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Whoever knew Truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?—Milton.

WHOLE NO. 1288 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1935 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 25, NO. 51

Wagner Act Is Attacked by Employers; Ogburn Defends Its Constitutionality

A. F. of L. Attorney Holds Measure Preventing Employers From Interfering With Workers' Rights to Organize and Bargain Collectively Is Within Power of Congress.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Anti-union employers have begun their threatened conspiracy to mobilize the courts of the United States against the constitutionality of the Wagner-Connery Labor Relations Act, which prohibits as unfair labor practices actions of employers interfering with the rights of working men and women to organize in bona fide trade unions and bargain collectively, including the promotion of company unions and discrimination against employes because of union membership.

Petitions to Federal judges for injunctions restraining the National Labor Relations Board from holding secret elections for chosing collective bargaining representatives have been filed in Detroit, Milwaukee, and Washington, D. C. It is therefore instructive to review the opinion of Charlton Ogburn, American Federation of Labor attorney, on the power of Congress to enact the measure in his brochure entitled "The National Labor Relations Act—Its Constitutionality."

Right to Organize

"The right of workers to organize into unions is a legal right they possess without regard to any Act of Congress," Mr. Ogburn declares. "This right has been recognized by courts of this country since 1842. What the National Labor Relations Act does is to forbid employers to interfere with this right of their employes to self-organization and the selection by employes of representatives for collective bargaining. This is a very reasonable requirement and a conservative law."

With this simple reminder of the long-recognized right of employes to organize and bargain collectively, Mr. Ogburn sets down briefly and concisely why in his opinion the Act will be upheld by the United States Supreme Court if that court is asked to pass on the question of constitutionality.

Chief Justice Hughes Quoted

He points out that the Railway Labor Act which includes majority rule and the principal features of the National Labor Relations Act, has already been sustained by the Supreme Court. As found in the case of the Railway Labor Act, there is no right of private contract involved.

In the opinion which sustained the constitutionality of the Railway Labor Act, Chief Justice Hugher said: "The Railway Labor Act of 1926 does not interfere with the normal exercise of the right of the carrier to select its employes or to discharge them. The statute is not aimed at this right of the employers, but at the interference with the right of employes to have representatives of their chosing."

Since the principles embodied in the National Labor Relations Act have been sustained as applied to railroads which are clearly in interstate commerce, the question here involved is how broad a class of employers are to be included under the National Labor Relations Act.

Meaning of Interstate Commerce

Denying the validity of the objection that Congress has exceeded its power in attempting to regulate activities not in or directly affecting commerce, Mr. Ogburn says the operation of the Act is by definition limited to situations which are "affecting" commerce among the states.

In reply to the contention that mining and manufacthring are purely local in their nature and therefore not subject to control by the Congress, numerous cases are cited to show how, in the past mining and manufacturing have been held to be subject to Federal regulation. Without question the two most widely known cases illustrating this point are the Coronado case and the case of the Danbury hatters.

In those great manufacturing industries which take coal, iron, cotton, or other raw materials from one State, process them in a second State, and ship them into other States, it is Mr. Ogburn's opinion that we have the very essence of what constitutes commerce among the States. In the Swift case Justice Holmes said in speaking of the operations of stockyards where cattle are sent for sale from one State to another and then after being slaughtered, to other States: "The current thus existing is a current of commerce among the States, and the purchase of the cattle is a part and incident of such commerce."

In the National Labor Relations Act it is the declared policy of the United States to eliminate the interruptions in this flow of commerce which have resulted from strikes involving destruction of lives and property.

Majority Rule

The importance of majority rule and the free choice of representatives are clearly illustrated according to Mr. Ogburn, by taking the case of two countries who seek to determine their common boundary through conference. If either set of delegates were controlled by the other country, or if either country sent more than one set of delegates, each having different ideas as to where the boundary should be, it is clear that one country would have a decided advantage over the other and that the country represented by one set of delegates free from outside influence would certainly get the best of the bargain.

We find here a striking parallel, Mr. Ogburn says, with the situation where an attempt is made to secure equality of bargaining power when the representatives of the employes are controlled by the management or where the representatives of the majority of the employes are denied the right to represent all. The Congress recognized the anomaly in this situation and in the Act provided specifically against it.

This review touches only the high spots of Mr. Ogburn's brochure, which is well documented with citations from many court decisions on the questions raised by the Labor Relations Act and should be widely read. It may be obtained for 50 cents a copy from the American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

HOLYOKE WIRE CLOTH CO. FOUGHT BY WIRE WEAVERS

Paper Makers' Unions Urged to Join Movement Against Concern's Attack on Organized Labor.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Woodhaven, N. Y.—The National Executive Board of the American Wire Weavers' Protective Association here issued a vigorously worded statement to the organized paper makers urging them to join in a concerted opposition to the anti-union policy of the Holyoke Wire Cloth Company, of Holyoke, Mass., which recently not only refused to join with other wire cloth manufacturers in paying the union scale but actually locked out their union employes and decreed a heavy wage cut for power loom weavers.

The Executive Board's statement is entitled "An Appeal for Justice and Fair Play." It gives an account of the development of trade unionism among wire weavers and explains the controversy over the wage-cutting policy of the Holyoke Company. The text of the statement follows:

Origin of Wire Weavers' Union

"In or about the year 1845 the wire weaving industry was started in this country.

"It was started with weavers who had worked in shops in Europe. They carried it on with apprentices until about the year 1876, at which time it had become quite an industry. The weavers thought they should have an organization. They organized but, due to many complications, the organization failed to function for any length of time.

"In 1882 there was a reorganization of the trade into a Protective and Benevolent Organization for the protection of its members. This same organization is still continuing to carry on the principles that were laid down for the trade in 1882.

"The above is a condensed history of our trade, and we base our appeal on it.

Agreements With Manufacturers

"Ever since we organized, our Executive Board has been doing business with the wire manufacturers through correspondence, and conferences on hours of labor, prices to be paid, and conditions under which we are to work.

"In June of this year we had a conference with the wire manufacturers and reached an agreement that was to run until January 1, 1937.

"Mr. Edward Docherty was present at the manufacturers' meeting but not at the conference, because he was not a member of the manufacturers' labor committee with whom we conducted our negotiations.

"Mr. Edward Docherty repudiated his part of the agreement, and notified the weavers in his employ that if they wished to continue to work for the Holyoke Wire Cloth Company they would have to work for 20 per cent less than the other wire manufacturers agreed to pay.

Holyoke Company Fights Union

"Mr. George Docherty, the father of Edward, came to this country from Europe and held a position as a wire weaver under the protection of the American Wire Weavers' Protective Association for years and years. He also has two sons who served their apprenticeship and became journeymen weavers, with the same protection and an opportunity to work under the protection afforded by being members of our organization.

"It is a very sad state of affairs when the money made by these three ex-members of our organization is being used against the one thing that has been their protection during the past years, and made them what they are. In other words, they are biting the hand that fed them.

Base Ingratitude

"In our organization our only thought has been during the past 50 years or more to place the labor cost to the wire manufacturers on an equal basis. We did not in any way interfere with their production or the prices they received for it.

"Therefore, we are appealing to you as labor men, believing in justice and the right of protection, to refuse to assist the Holyoke Wire Cloth Company, of Holyoke, Mass., to destroy the work of over 50 years in the building up of the American Wire Weavers' Protective Association. Whatever you do in this appeal remember you are doing it for your own fellow workers."

MISS PERKINS STRESSES HIGH PAY, SHORT HOURS

Strong Labor Organizations and Genuine Collective Bargaining Are Necessary for Civilized Industrial Relations, Secretary of Labor Says.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Effective organization of working men and women in labor unions for the purpose of real collective bargaining and the complete recognition of this right to organize by those who own and control industry were emphasized by Miss Francis Perkins, Secretary of Labor, in an address before the New York County Lawyers' Association in New York City, as the fundamental conditions for "civilized relations" between employers and their employes.

Miss Perkins, who outlined a seven-point social security program which calls for the cooperation of labor and management, also included shorter hours as essential for preserving the "human values" of the toilers, the highest possible wages, regularity of employment, old age pensions and unemployment insurance as necessary parts of any program for the welfare of the masses and the prosperity of industry.

Although she regarded stable profits as essential for business, she declared that "human needs" should be included as an elemental objective in the expansion of industry.

Seven-Point Program Outlined

Following is the seven-point program for "modern social security" outlined by Miss Perkins:

"1. Regularity and stabilization of industry, so that there may be regularity of employment and prevention of unemployment.

"2. Wage payments and rates on the highest possible levels consistent with keeping prices and financial stability of the industry in a healthy condition. The greater the earnings that go to wage earners, the larger the purchasing market created. Profits and dividends of all industry depend on the sales of each.

"3. Hours short enough to preserve the human values of the workers and also by giving leisure to provide the desire and opportunity to buy the products of factories and farms, amusements, industries and transportation.

"4. Thoughtful management with a social consciousness that leads inevitably to these considerations of interrelationship between wages, profits, dividends and community welfare.

"5. Expansion of industry in the direction of human needs and stable profits, rather than hit-or-miss extension for quick misleading returns.

"6. Civilized relations between employers and their workers and a genuine bargaining on conditions of work. This can exist effectively only when there is adequate organization of labor and where employers accept that situation, frankly and willingly, seeking by orderly and systematic dealing together to secure the work relationships that make a steady and profitable industry for both workers and owners.

"7. A systematic method of providing individuals with income against predictable loss of earning power, such as old age, unemployment, dependency in families by death or disability of wage earners. The social security bill covers this ground."

36-HOUR WEEK AND WAGE CUT RESTORATION ASKED BY NEW ZEALAND WORKERS

Increase of Labor's Productivity by Machinery and Larger Value Added To Commodities Cited as Good Reasons for Government Action to Secure Higher Living Standards.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

One of the first major problems for the newly-elected Labor Government under the direction of Prime Minister Michael J. Savage and his big Labor majority in Parliament to handle will be legislation to remedy the deep injustice which the Tory Government meted out to the workers in 1931 by imposing a heavy reduction in wages at the demand of New Zealand employers whose greed for increased profits killed all consideration for justice toward their employes.

Shortly before the recent election, which gave organized labor 52 seats out of 80 in the House, the National Council of the New Zealand Alliance of Labor and the District Councils throughout the Dominion placed before the Tory Prime Minister and the Tory Minister of Labor indisputable facts and irrefutable arguments why the 1931 wage slashes should be restored and a shorter work week established in the interest not only of wage and salary earners but of the people of New Zealand as a whole.

It is interesting to note that the Labor deputation was introduced by Mr. Savage, then leader of the Labor opposition in Parliament and now Prime Minister.

Reduced Wages Injure Entire People

Speaking on behalf of the National Council, Mr. J. Roberts stated that the past few years had demonstrated very clearly the fallacy of the argument of those who considered that the best way to restore prosperity to New Zealand was to lower the standard of living of the people, for the immediate result of wage and salary-cutting was a substantial increase in the number of unemployed, reduced factory production, reduced imports and an increase in the volume of exports. All this was due solely to the fact that the purchasing power of the wage and salaried workers was reduced, and this in turn reduced the income of the manufacturer, the retailer and the wholesaler, for after all the wage and salaried workers were the principal purchasers of goods in New Zealand, whether those goods were manufactured in this country or imported from overseas.

Thousands Added to Unemployed

In 1930-31 the total number of persons engaged in factory production was 77,914. In 1932-33 only 68,921 persons were employed—a reduction of 8,993.

In 1930-31 the salaries and wages paid to the workers in factory production amounted to £15,617,052. In 1932-33 this was reduced to £12,048,148—a reduction of £3,568,904.

The added value to commodities manufactured in 1930-31 was £30,757,060, and in 1932-33 it dropped to £25,537,574—a reduction of over £5,000,000.

Workers' Productive Capacity Increases

Continuing, Mr. Roberts said that a factor in modern economic life which had not received due consideration by the government was the increased ability of the worker to produce goods and render service as compared with 15 years ago. Since 1920 machine and motive power had increased by 231 per cent. The added value to commodities produced in factories had increased during the same period by 13 per cent per person engaged, but, as prices were 35 per cent higher in 1920 than they were at present, this meant that the added value per person employed today as compared with 15 years ago had increased by approximately 50 per cent.

This was further demonstrated by the fact that, although prices had gradually fallen, the added value per £100 expended in wages and salaries had increased from £199.1 in 1928-29 to £211.96 in 1932-33, and it must naturally follow that the percentage of wages and salaries to added values had dropped considerably.

Remedy Is Shorter Hours, Higher Wages

The deputation, he said, was asking the government to remedy the mistakes made in 1931. The first step should be the immediate restoration of all wage and salary cuts to the 1931 level. The next step to be taken was the reduction of working hours to, say, 36 per week. This would give employment to a great number of unemployed workers and add considerably to the national income, and in turn give employment to further workers throughout the Dominion.

If the family wage-earners were paid reasonable wages and given regular employment, the school-leaving age could be raised, for the workers would then be in a position to maintain their children. This would give an opportunity to the young people of New Zealand to obtain employment which was denied them today.

LARGE DEMAND FOR UNION-MADE GOODS

Ornburn Says Campaign for Extension of Union Labels, Shop Cards and Buttons Means Higher Living Standards for Working Men and Women.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The market for union label goods and services is larger now than at any previous time during the last 25 years, I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, declared here in an address over the nation-wide network of the National Broadcasting Company.

Mr. Ornburn gave an instructive account of the scope of union labels, cards and buttons as indicating the broad field included in articles made and services performed by trade union members.

"The buying public has responded in a most loyal manner to our national campaign urging Americans to demand the union label, shop card and button," Mr. Ornburn said. "Never since the establishment of the Union Label Trades Department in 1909 has there been such a growth of sentiment for union-made goods and union services. The union label is going to town, and, I might add, it is going to the country also.

"Allow me to express the deep gratitude of our department of the American Federation of Labor for this [illegible] support of all the patriotic citizens [illegible] proved by their unparalleled action [illegible] even asking for union-made goods [illegible] they believe in the American standard of living. Let me also thank the thousands of volunteer workers for their militant campaign for union labels, shop cards and buttons. The splendid results are evidence of their cooperation and we are confident that these results will register in the pay envelopes of every citizen who works for a living.

Scope of Union Goods and Services

"For those listeners who are not familiar with what I mean by union labels, shop cards and buttons, I shall give brief definitions of each.

"The union label is a symbol which is displayed by means of a cloth or paper label, stamp or other imprint upon products to indicate that they are made in unionized shops, factories and other industrial establishments.

"A shop card is a printed sign which is displayed in the window or on the wall of all shops and business places whose employes are unionized.

"Working buttons are similar to the insignia of lodges or fraternal orders and are worn in the same manner. The working button gives assurance that the services are rendered by a member of a trade union.

"Others may ask, 'In what lines of business are union labels, shop cards and buttons displayed?' The answer is, 'In most every line.'

Union Food, Beverages, Clothing

"Take, for example, a meal or a drink. The consumer should look for the union house card or the union bar card. The waiters and waitresses in every union establishment wear the working button.

"The bottle or barrel from which your refreshing drink is served is often union made and it was probably delivered by a member of a labor union. Even the horses are shod by union horseshoers.

"Again, if you want a cigar or a package of cigarettes, union brands bear the union label. The same is true of pipe and chewing tobacco, as well as stogies.

"If you wish to purchase food, inquire if the bread, crackers or other confectioneries are made by union bakers. You should also look for the union market shop card when you buy meat. The retail clerks in all mercantile establishments can join a union. In this case the retail clerk's shop card is diplayed.

"There are union labels for every article of wearing apparel for men and women.

"All engineers in buildings and on construction work have insignia. When having any building construction or repair work done, one should always look for the working button on all mechanics.

"When wiring your Christmas greetings, look for a button on the telegraphers.

Theatres, Barber Shops, Printing

"When it comes to amusements, do you know that the moving picture machine operators and theatrical stage employes are members of unions? Do you know that music is furnished by union musicians? And before you go out for the evening, do you know that you can obtain a first-class shave or haircut in a union barber shop?

"All the print crafts have union labels and these labels are often combined under one label of the allied printing trades.

"The shops in which every kind of machinery is made and mechanical work performed, employ members of the metal trades unions. There are union machinists, molders, sheet metal workers, iron, steel, and tin workers, and various other metal workers.

"Any industry can obtain the right to display union labels. The greater the demand for union-made goods and union services the sooner will all firms become unionized.

"Any one can obtain a directory showing facsimiles of all the union labels, shop cards and buttons by addressing a letter to the Union Label Trades Department, American Federation of Labor Building, Washington, D. C."

ALIENS IN THE UNITED STATES

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The repeated claim that there are from 6,000,000 to 20,000,000 aliens in the United States is a gross exaggeration, according to Daniel W. MacCormack, United States Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization. In a recent statement he claimed the actual number is 4,922,000, of whom about 1,500,000 "have directly or through their parents applied for naturalization."

Commissioner MacCormack said the number of aliens coming into the United States has decreased from over 1,000,000 annually to between 30,000 and 40,000 in the past few years. During the year ending last July, 34,956 aliens entered the United States and 38,834 departed for their native countries, he added.

EDITORIALS

CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT THREATENED

The 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor expressed the well-grounded fear that interstate compacts to regulate minimum wages for women and minors may work against the adoption of the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution and approved the warning of the Executive Council of the Federation that organized labor should scrutinize the child labor provisions of the compacts very carefully before endorsing them.

"Representatives of a number of States," the Council said, "have held conferences and have sought to establish compacts providing for uniform, standard conditions of employment, particularly with regard to minimum wages for women and minors. While certain portions of these plans can be approved and supported, there is one phase of the question which must be given most careful consideration and which is classified as Child Labor legislation.

"Since 1924 the American Federation of Labor has urged the ratification of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States delegating to Congress power to limit, regulate and prohibit the employment of children in mines, mills and factories.

"If State compacts make provisions governing the labor of children there is danger that such action might furnish States which have not yet ratified the amendment with an excuse that no such action was necessary because of the provisions contained in said compacts.

"Six New England States and Pennsylvania have such compacts. When two of these States have agreed to certain legislation and it is approved by Congress it becomes the law in other States.

"Massachusetts and New Hampshire have adopted a minimum wage law. It provides that no employer can pay a woman or a minor under 21 years of age an unfair or oppressive wage. When Congress consents to the action of these two States then the minimum law becomes effective in the other four States.

"The consent of Congress is required by reason of Section 10 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States which provides: 'No State shall, without the consent of Congress . . . enter into any agreement or compact with another State.'

"Uniformity in Child Labor legislation can be secured through an Act of Congress after ratification of the Child Labor Amendment by the required number of States. Our primary purpose is to secure the adoption of the Child Labor Amendment.

"The Executive Council, therefore, warns State federations of labor to exercise the highest degree of care in approving compacts containing provisions governing child labor."

ILLITERATES IN CCC CAMPS

Evidently compulsory school attendance is essentially lacking in many of the States whose unemployed constitute some of the recruits mobilized in the camps of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Otherwise it is difficult to account for the figures made public by Howard W. Oxley, director of CCC camp education, which reveal that according to a survey undertaken in July there were 7,369 illiterates in the camps, of whom 5,406 are now being taught to read and write.

"It was found," Mr. Oxley said, "that 78 per cent of the illiterates were under 25 years of age, 5 per cent between 26 and 35 years of age and 16 per cent were over 35 years of age."

Mr. Oxley added that approximately 69 per cent of the illiterates "were born in the United States and only 4 per cent were foreign born." This would indicate that the compulsory school attendance laws of many states are essentially defective in not requiring boys to at least enter the primary grades.

This lack of adequate educational requirements for the young occurs in both rural and urban school administration. Mr. Oxley's report shows that more than half of the illiterates "came from rural communities, about a third from small towns and the remainder from large cities."

It would be a creditable achievement indeed if enough of the $4,800,000,000 relief appropriation act could be allocated to attacking the illiteracy problem so that it could be said with truth that every child of school age and every adult throughout the length and breadth of the Nation could read and write.

TVA COMMUNISM

Opponents of the work the Tennessee Valley Authority is doing in permanently improving the conditions of thousands of people do not hesitate to make glaringly erroneous statements regarding that organization.

One of these fables is to the effect that Norris, Tenn., built by the Federal Government to provide living quarters for workers employed in constructing the Norris Dam, is a "godless town."

This canard has been given wide circulation. Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia recently added impetus to its journey by citing it as proof that the Government had imposed Communism on the residents of Norris "by refusing to permit denominational churches to be built."

Poor Richard said, "Half the truth is often a great lie." This maxim applies to Talmadge's brainstorm.

The statement that there are no denominational churches in Norris is true, but it is only half the truth. The population of the town is about 2,000. TVA officials asked them whether they wanted a community church or separate churches. The residents voted overwhelmingly for the community church. Furthermore, the community church is always open for any sect that wishes to hold its own services. TVA spokesmen have explained this many times. Following Governor Talmadge's diatribe, Arthur O. Morgan, chairman of the TVA, repeated the facts.

There is another aphorism to the effect that a lie will travel very far before truth overtakes it. It is therefore, more than probable that the opponents of the TVA will continue to howl themselves hoarse about the "churchless" and "godless" town of Norris despite the fact that there is not a scintilla of truth to warrant the charge.

GREEN SAYS TAMPA MAY LOSE AFL CONVENTION

Demands Swift Punishment of Men Who Flogged and Tarred and Feathered Three Workers, One of Whom Died From the Injuries.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, instructed Wendell C. Heaton, president of the Florida State Federation of Labor, to "file a vigorous protest with the proper authorities at Tampa," against the flogging there of three working men on November 30, one of whom died as a result of the injuries inflicted by the abductors.

The victims of the gangsters were Eugene Poulnot, formerly a member of the Pressmen's Union and an official of an organization of unemployed workers; Sam G. Rogers, a member of the Socialist Party, and Joseph A. Shoemaker, chairman of a political organization called the "Modern Democrats." Mr. Shoemaker's injuries were so severe that he died shortly after the outrage.

Mr. Green's letter to Mr. Heaton was in reply to a report regarding the outrage. The text of the letter follows:

"I deeply appreciate the supplementary report you make of your investigation of the Tampa flogging case in the telegram you sent me dated December 13th. I share the feeling of indignation which you advise me prevails in Tampa because of the outrage perpetrated upon these apparently defenseless workers. There was no justification for the assault which was made upon them.

"I officially protest against the treatment accorded these three men named in your letter and in the telegram you sent me. In the name of the Florida State Federation of Labor and in behalf of the American Federation of Labor I ask you to file a vigorous protest with the proper authorities at Tampa.

"Furthermore, I urge that you demand from the city authorities a thorough investigation the arrest of those guilty of the outrage if possible, and their proper prosecution in the courts. Unless this is done, there is a strong probability that the American Federation of Labor will change its meeting place from Tampa to some other city.

"Please make known these facts and all this information to the mayor of the city, the prosecuting authorities at Tampa and to other city authorities at the earliest possible moment."

Tampa Mayor Probes Flogging

Tampa, Fla.—R. E. L. Chancey, mayor of Tampa, in connection with his probe of the flogging of three working men here, which resulted in the death of one of them, suspended six policemen and one fireman, who without a warrant raided a private house in which the men were holding a conference and placed them under arrest, taking them to police headquarters where they were released. As they left police headquarters they were abducted, taken a number of miles into the country, flogged, tarred and feathered and left in the woods.

Mayor Chancey softened the suspension with a statement in which he said he hoped "this action will not be taken by any one to indicate that I have any concrete information that would justify me in believing these men, or any of them, had any complicity in the flogging. When the investigation is complete, those who are found without blame will be reinstated."

MALNUTRITION AFFLICTS CHILDREN OF UNEMPLOYED

York, Can. (AFLNS).—Charging that at least 400 children of unemployed workers in this vicinity are suffering from extreme malnutrition—a medical term for slow starvation—because of lack of milk, J. P. Andrews, secretary of the York Board of Trade, urged the Township Council to return to the system of milk vouchers in place of cash relief.

Mr. Andrews pointed out that where a family formerly received special milk vouchers, bringing the home supply up to three and four quarts a day, they purchased in some cases only one pint under the cash relief plan. "The children of unemployed families are undoubtedly suffering from malnutrition," he said.

BILLION DOLLARS OF WORK RELIEF FUND IS RELEASED

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Comptroller General J. R. McCarl announced that $1,068,344,963 of the $4,000,000,000 appropriation for unemployment relief had been released for expenditure by state executives of the Works Progress Administration. The smallest amount went to Nevada, which was allotted $1,296 416. More money was turned over to New York City than to any state, it having been allotted $121,426,872, with a WPA employment quota of about 220,000 jobs. New York State, outside of New York City, was given $50,875,779. The next largest allotment went to Pennsylvania which received $110,024,164.

Fruehauf Company Found Guilty Of Violating Wagner-Connery Act

Labor Board Orders Detroit Concern to Stop Hiring Spies, Reinstate Victimized Union Members, and Cease Interfering With Employes' Right to Organize.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—After an exhaustive inquiry, the National Labor Relations Board found the Fruehauf Trailer Company of Detroit guilty of violating the unfair labor practices section of the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Act an dissued a drastic order requiring the concern to reinstate seven employes who were discharged because of their activities in connection with the Automobile Workers' Union, with back pay at the rate in effect at the date of their dismissal.

In addition to requiring the restoration of the employment status of the victimized trade unionists, the Board made the following rulings:

1. The company must "cease and desist from interfering with its employes in the exercise of their rights to join labor organizations or to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing."

2. The company must end the "employment of detectives to report on union activities or become members of any labor organization for the purpose of obtaining information."

3. The company must end "any practices tending to discourage membership in the United Automobile Workers' Federal Labor Union No. 19375, and from threatening discharge because of membership in the union."

Company Spy Joins Union

In its decision the Labor Board gives an account of the activities of J. N. Martin, a private detective, whose espionage for the Fruehauf Company was revealed at the November hearing held by the Board.

According to the testimony, Martin was in the pay of the company, passed as an ordinary company employe and as such became a member of the Automobile Workers' Union. Eventually he was elected treasurer of the union, and in this capacity had access to a list of members. Once a week he reported to Halpin the company's superintendent, who went about the shop with the list in hand warning employes against union activity.

Reports to Company Official

The testimony revealed that Martin disguised his identity as a spy to such an extent that he visited the Detroit office of the National Labor Relations Board on September 27, 1935, and conferred in the guise of a union member with the Board's regional attorney while the latter was probing the union's charge against the Fruehauf Company.

During this visit Martin was known to have noticed the presence of J. L. Peterson, a sub-foreman for the company and the recording secretary of the union. The testimony showed that Martin reported this fact to Earl Vosler, vice president of the company. Two weeks later Paterson was discharged.

During a meeting of the union on July 8 to consider a secret vote on calling a strike, Martin spoke against the strike and his attitude is said to have had a bearing on the fact that the union did not favor a walkout.

Company Discharges Union Members

According to the Board's decision the discharge of each of the seven employes took place during the working day under circumstances which led to the Board's finding that the company was moved by a desire to break the union.

Nicholas Trusch, five years with the company, was asked by his superior, "Do you want your job or your union?"

William Weinman, three years with the company, was similarly approached. Arthur Beck was a union shop steward. In the case of Leonard Shaloux a sub-foreman had been instructed to tell him not to attend union meetings.

William Milne, two years with the company, at the time of a previous discharge in 1934 was told: "You should leave that union alone. I am just warning you." Milne on that occasion was reinstated as a result of a conference with the former National Labor Relations Board.

Warned Against "Union Business"

On July 8 of this year he was told that orders from upstairs were to fire him. The company spokesman said: "Bill, I warned you a year ago about this union business." A week later a man with much less experience was hired in Milne's place.

Woolery Coonrod, eight years with the company and at one time a foreman, was told by Foreman Goodell that his troubles arose from "fooling around the damn union."

Two officers of the union, Steven Sprytzer its president, and Arthur Hillman, its vice president, were discharged July 2, three days before the National Labor Relations Act was signed. The decision noted this fact and in its order the Board dismissed the complaint as to these two men.

In its comment on the effects of discharges on the workers' attempts to organize for collective bargaining the Board quotes the president of the local: "After I got fired they would pick one out here and there, and we could not get a bargaining agency to go and see them."

The Fruehauf Trailer Company announced that it would ignore the cease and desist order of the National Labor Relations Board. The next procedure will be for the Board to ask the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals at Cincinnati to enforce its order against the company.

More Than Food and Shelter Ration Is Asked by Jobless

Toronto, Can. (AFLNS).—Supported by the unemployed associations of Toronto, the Parliament Buildings here were picketed by unemployed workers of East York and Long Branch as part of a campaign to persuade the Provincial Government to meet the demands of the jobless of the two municipalities, who were denied assistance because they would not work for relief limited to their food and shelter.

Pending action by the government a canvass of packing plants, stores and homes was made in the endeavor to secure food for the families of the strikers.